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RAILROAD EXTENSION

Action of Mount Pleasant Citizens' Committee on Pending Bills.

PROPOSED CAPITAL TRACTION LOOP

Views Expressed in Regard to the Metropolitan Railroad Bill.

RAPID TRANSIT FACILITIES

At a meeting last evening of the railroad committee of the Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association it was unanimously decided to indorse the portion of a bill recently introduced in Corgress granting authority to the Capital Traction Railway Company to build an extension of its line from the present terminus on 14th street extended through Mount Pleasant. This is what is known as the loop. The proposition embodied in the bill, that has also been recently introduced in Congress, to give the Metropolitan railroad authority to make certain extersions was also considered as far as it related to the territory within the limits of the association.

One of the proposed extensions for the Metropolitan road is to provide what will practically be a continuation of the 9th street line along 13th street extended. From 13th and Lydecker streets it is proposed to extend a line along Lydecker street to Hol-mead avenue, thence west through the Mattingly tract and thence west on Howand acouse to the Piney Branch road or 16th street extended. In the language of the act this extension from 13th and Ly-decker streets is to be built "in six months from the opening and the grading of the streets through the Mattingly tract."

Proposed Metropolitan Extension.

It was the unanimous opinion of the committee that as there was great uncertainty when streets would be extended through the Mattingly tract that the street railroad facilities now greatly needed by the residents of Mount Pleasant could not reasonably be expected from this source in the near future. It was therefore decided not to indorse this p'an.

There is another extension, however, which it is proposed for the Metropolitan road, and that is the one from the present terminus at 18th street and Columbia road out 18th street to Howard avenue. The committee decided to approve this proposed extension. It is the intention to call a special meeting of the association on Tuesday evening of next week, when the report of the committee will be considered.

The Mt. Pleasant Loop.

In the course of the discussion over the proposed extension of the Capital Traction road, the opinion was expressed that this was really the best proposition that had ever been made in the interests of Mount Pleasant and the vicinity. As is well known, if this extension or loop is granted the ears that will run out 14th street when the new system is in operation will continue past the present terminus of the road at Park streets, along 14th street by single track to Howard avenue, thence westerly along Howard avenue to 17th street extended, thence south on 17th stree to Park street, thence easterly on Park street to 14th street again.

It was stated that officials of the com-pany had said that if authority was se-cured that the extension would be built and cars would be running within thirty days after the passage of the bill. The plan is to make a continuous run of the 14th street cars over the line of the proposed loop, and when they return on the trip south a stop for a short time will be made in front of the present car house on 14th street, so as to enable conductors to get tickets and to enable conductors to get tickets and

On a Trunk Line.

The section of the road through Mount Pleasant, according to this plan, will form a continuous part of this system, which goes not only to the business center of the city, but practically to all parts of the eity. It is believed by the members of the committee, and they will so report at the meeting of the association, that this pro-posed 14th street loop of the Capital Trac-tion railway will afford the residents of that locality all the advantages which come from a close proximity to one of the main street railway lines of the city.

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

Bill to Organize a Local Naval Re serve Reported.

Mr. Hale, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, today reported a bill to the Senate to provide for organizing a naval battalion in the District of Columbia. This is the measure referred to at length in The Star yesterday. The measure was Senate bill 1316, and as reported is amended to meet the views of Mr. McAdoo, to whom it was referred while he was assistant secretary of the navy. In addition to officers provided in the original bill, provision is made for a navigating officer, one signal, ordnance and equipment officer, each with the rank of lieutenant. The adjutant and assistant engineer included in the original bill are stricken out. The bill provides that the battalion shall contain not less than sixty nor more than 100 petty officers and

nlisted mea.

Mr. Wellington of Maryland introduced in the Senate a bill appropriating \$800 to be paid James S. Crawford, formerly chief cierk of the office of foreign mails of the Post Office Department, that amount being laimed as unpaid salary.

Mr. McMillan introduced in the Senate

bill, recommended by the Commissioners, to secure uniformity in the names of streets and roads in the District of Colum Also a bill prepared by the Historical So-clety of the District of Columbia for the same purpose, being similar to the measure prepared by them and introduced by Mr. McMillan in the last Congress.

Mr. McMillan also introduced in the Sen-

ate a bill authorizing the Capital Traction Company to extend its tracks on Florida avenue from its present terminus at 7th street to North Capitol street, and to run cars thereon operated by the undergrounelectric system. The bill requires the building of this extension within one year from the passage of the act.

GREAT FIRE AT MELBOURNE.

Damage Estimated at \$7,500,000 in Warehouse District.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., December 18 .-The great fire in Melbourne on the morning of November 22 was far more destruc tive than was indicated in the brief cable report of the disaster. Mail advices brought by the steamer Moana state that the entire district, comprising the great warehouse emporium of Victoria, was gutted and reduced to a mass of tottering ruins. The total amount of damage done is estimated at \$7,500,000.

About 1,000 regular employes engaged in the soft goods werehouses were thrown out of work for some time at least, and about 1,000 hands employed in the clothing factories and in other places will also sufseverely for a time, owing to the detruction of taw material.

The theory of lightning has been advanc-

to account for the origin of the fire.

## ANTIS GROWING BOLDER AUTONOMY'S PHASES

Opponents of Senator Hanna Give Evidence of Confidence.

Alleged Interview Between Kurtz and McLean Denounced as Treachery by Major Dick.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 18 .- The boldness of the anti-Hanna movement in Ohio is growing as the meeting of the legislature draws near. The report that Charles Kurtz, the leader of the movement, had been in conference with John R. McLean in Washington is regarded by Maj. Dick

as an evidence of the perfidy of Mr. Kurtz. The friends of Mr. Hanna are now declaring that the treachery of Kurtz is proved beyond a doubt, and that the result would be that the loyal republicans would rally to the support of Mr. Hanna. Indeed, so delighted were they over the fact that Kurtz's alleged visit, had been made public that they fell to discussing Kurtz's action during the campaign, and it was said that then he was very often in conference with Mc-Lean in Cincinnati.

he was very often in conference with McLean in Cincinnati.

Mr. Hanna's friends still profess to be
satisfied with the outlook, and declare that
they do not fear the outcome.

The three anti-Hanna members of the
legislature from this county held a conference with Mr. Kurtz at Columbus last
night. When they left Cleveland yesterday they made no secret of their intentions
of posting themselves upon the latest plans
of their leader. When they left yesterday
they had not pledged themselves to the
cause of the opposition, but if they are
satisfied that Kurtz can win the fight they
will enroll themselves with him, otherwise
they will vote for Senator Hanna. They
know that opposition to Mr. Hanna and know that opposition to Mr. Hanna and defeat in the bargain means political sui-

It is more than likely that the price of their votes will be that Mason shall be made speaker of the house and that Burke shall be elected vice president of the senate. Beyond a doubt the deal between the Fora-ker faction and the democrats includes the defeat of all of Mr. Hanna's candidates for office in the organization of the two houses, and the election of these men would be the logical result.

TRAMP HAS HIS PANTS.

Now Mr. Acklan Sues Mr. Crocker for Their Value.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 18.-William Hays Acklan of Washington has placed a small claim in the hands of his attorneys here against Mr. T. D. Crocker, at one time one of the wealthiest men in Cleveland and the former father-in-law of Mr. Acklan.

When Mr. Acklan married Miss Crocker, less than two years ago, he left in Cleveland, before their European bridal tour, a suit of clothes at the Crocker mansion on Euclid avenue. Six months ago Mrs. Acklan received a divorce at Wilmington, Del. In the meantime Mr. Acklan wrote to the Crockers asking that the suit of clothes be sent to him. They had given the garments to a tramp, and of course could not comply with Mr. Acklan's request. Mr. Acklan has put the matter in the hands of Attorneys Ladden & Parks, and soon the Acklans and the Crockers will engage in the frag and the Crockers will engage in the fray once more, that is, they will if the case is not

OPPOSE HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION. Beet Sugar Growers Claim It Will

Injure Their Business. AMES, Neb., December 18.-The American Sugar Growers' Society has prepared a petition to Congress begging that body not to be too hasty in taking action on the question of annexing the Sandwich Islands. It has issued a manifesto in which it proclaims to the country that the annexation will seriously cripple, if not utterly ruin, the rapidly increasing industry of sugar

beet growing.
This manifesto declares that the American farmer cannot grow beets in competi-American farmer, says the manifesto, demands that the islands be not annexed. With coolie competition out, the American farmer can harvest \$100,000,000 worth of sugar heretofore imported.

The petition is signed by the president.

vice president, secretary and treasurer of the American Sugar Growers' Society.

TO REGULATE PRICE OF WOOL. Big Combination of Western Manu-

facturers of Woolen Goods. COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 18.-The woolen goods manufacturers of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia formed an association here yesterday, with the following officers: President. P. H. Bruck, Columbus; vice president, J. E. Claypool, Worthington, Pa.; secretary, B. D. Nightingale, Defiance, Ohio; treasurer, C. L. Clark, Columbus.
It is the intention of the members to pro-

tect themselves by an agreement as to the price to be paid for raw material, rather than to regulate the price of their product, and a resolution governing purchases was adopted, but not made public.

MACHINERY MAKERS' TRUST. Giant Corporation Incorporated Un-

der Laws of New Jersey. NEW YORK, December 18 .- Wood-working machinery manufacturers of the United States have organized and will incorporate under the laws of New Jersey the American Wood-working Machine Company. The officers are: President. William Duryea of New York; first vice president,

A. D. Hermance of Williamsport, Pa.; second vice president, Henry C. Baker of Philadelphia; treasurer, R. W. Perkins of Norwich, Conn.; secretary, Frank W. Duryea of New York city.

The capital stock of the corporation is \$4,000,000, divided into 20,000 shares of preferred stock, the latter to bear 7 per

cent interest. BANKS AND BANKING.

Mr. Serven Approves of Public School

Savings Banks. A. R. Serven, chief examiner of the civil service commission, and lately of the office of the controller of the currency, lectured before a large audience last evening at the Eckington Presbyterian Church on "Banks and Banking." Mr. Serven explained the various classes of banking institutions and their methods of doing business, and approved the estab-lishment of postal savings banks and of public school banks. The latter class of institutions, he said, have proved highly successful in New York state in encour-aging thrift among children.

CONTAMINATION OF THE POTOMAC.

Representative Hepburn Introduces Bill Providing for an Investigation. Representative Hepburn of Iowa, chairman of the committee on foreign and inter-state commence, has introduced a bill in the House authorizing the surgeon general of the marine hospital service to investigate the causes of contamination of Potomac river water, and to report legislation to remedy the evils.

A Political and Military as Well as an Economic Basis.

SAVING THE COUNTRY'S LABOR

Small Farmers and Tradespeople Will Give the Reforms a Chance.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

(Copyright, 1897, by Chas. M. Pepper.)

special Correspondence of The Evening Star. GUINES, Cuba, December 12, 1897. Autonomy in the country districts of Cuba has several phases. There is a political and a military side to it as well as an economic basis. The basis must be found in saving the labor that the remaining country people, the soil tillers, are able to give. A previous letter has shown their condition and their needs. Sustain the life that is in them till it becomes stronger and they will be something on which to build political systems. This is as true of autonomy as it would be of independence. The pressing question is of the labor that is capable of exertion in the present and the immediate future-not the future when the United States may again be turning over the question of intervention. That is too far off.

To the stranger's eye Guines is even now garden. The buildings destroyed by the insurgents when they carried out their promise of celebrating President McKinley's inauguration by raiding the town are still in ruins. The wider path of destruction which Weyler cut in clearing the country so the troops could command it from the forts causes a gap in the landscape which has not been closed. But the aspect of the whole country is so green and rich and refreshing that these blotches are scarcely noticed. The canefields stretch away to the 1.41ls. In the distance their leanness is not perceived. The lands which are given over to the vegetables seem freshly carpeted with verdure. These truck gardens, as they would be called in the states, I am told, have labor enough to handle their products. It is for a peculiar reason. The crep is small. One-half the usual amount? No. One-quarter? No. A fifth? Possibly, but more likely an eighth. Once this garden product was enough to supply the greater part of the island. This season the stuff is needed where it is produced. Probably the tobacco also can be handled because the crop is not large, although competition already exists with the sugar plantations which are trying to draw labor from the tobacco fields.

The Surrounding Country. Four sugar plantations can be seen from the roof of the city hall in Guines. The mills have not been burned during the insurrection. They are ready to grind and

the cane is ready for cutting. The esti-

mates are for one-fourth of an average The planters are finding some labor. One plantation is reported to have had great good fortune in getting together 263 labor ers. Others have a fraction of what they need. All will have to draw on the recor centradoes, and this is a doubtful contribu-tion to their wants. Sugar plantations call for strong frames and stout arms. A year of starvation may not kill, has not killed in every case, but it is not a good prepara-tion for hard labor. Of fifty or sixty reconcentradoes seen outside the hospitals here in Guines I do not think a dozen are capable of sustaining a week's light labor in the field. In the morning I saw a hundred reconcentradoes drawn up at the little rail-way station of Guara. They were said to be "able-bodied." In that gang of weakened and wasted frames there was not the labor capacity of twenty ordinary men.

And labor on the sugar plantations has to

be calculated as a quantity and not by individual units.

The scarcity of oxen, too, is a drawback. The oxen suffered under Weyler's policy as well as the human beings. Their destruction was wanton. Cattle can be im-ported from the states for consumption, but this source cannot supply oxen for the fields. An ox today on any sugar planta-tion in Cuba is worth more than a man. The deficiency is hard to supply. In the The deficiency is nare to supply streets of this town, are many ox carts rusty and falling to pieces from disuse. A road one was formerly worth \$140. One good one was formerly worth \$140. One was sold yesterday for \$2. That is the way property has depreciated. It would fur-nish the political economists with a fine Illustration of the interdependent relations of values, commodities, demand and supply and so on through the whole chapter. Here it is simply an illustration of the void arti-ficially created between production and the ability to utilize that production. The disouraging prospects are not preventing the planters from going forward. They cut and grind what cane they can and hope to find gradually improving conditions which will ultimately enable them to market the whole crop. If they succeed the rise in the value of ox carts will not be the only benefit that will come to this burdened

ommunity. Willing to Try Autonomy.

As to autonomy. It has a chance of gaining the support of a portion of that class whose support is everywhere considered valuable by government. The property owners of this neighborhood are not all Spaniards. Two of the sugar plantations are owned by Cubans. The ricest man in the town and the largest property owner is a Cuban. The owners of most of the small farms are Cubans. The majority of the tradespeople, as it ter do not monopolize trade. The culti-vators of the soil are Cubans. "The Span-iard works in the shade," is the bitter comment of the Cubans themselves when they discuss the labor conditions of the island. I do not know whether this is island. I do not know whether this is true or not as a rule of general applica-tion, but the work in the fields here is done largely by the Cubans. It was this patient and hardworking population that was sacrificed by Weyler's decree. In spite of all they have suffered these people are willing to give autonomy a chance. They appear to have no vindictive-ness. Notwithstanding the frightful abuses

civil administration in the past the of civil administration in the past they are ready to attempt to carry on the government in co-operation with the Spanish element. Their sympathy with the insurrection is not active or aggressive. They do not apologize for it nor do they encourage it. Cubans in this part of the island age it. Cubans in this part of the island have been made to suffer, for when Blanco took power the prison was choked with "suspects." While some have been released the amnesty has not been general. In going through the prison I found there were forty-five political prisoners who are beld. No reason is given for not releasing were forty-five political prisoners who are held. No reason is given for not releasing them with the others. Their friends and relatives are hopeful and trustful enough to think the order will come soon.

Some changes have been made toward the Cubers representation in the company of the com Some changes have been made toward giving the Cubans representation in local government. They are grateful and the Spaniards correspondingly resentful. Two weeks ago an autonomist was named by the governor of the province as alcalde. He was Tomas Febles Garcia, a watchmaker whose executive ability has already shown fiself in the measures for the relief of the starving population. The city council was composed of seventeen aldermen,

every one of whom was a Spaniard. Places have been found for five Cubans. In other ways there has also been an equalization of official responsibility. The Cubans accept this in good faith. They will give their energies to developing the natural resources of their country and repairing the waste of its riches that has been caused by the war. But they too know that if any they are the sources of their country and repairing the waste of its riches that has been caused by the war. But they too know that if any sources of their country and repairing the waste of its riches that has been caused by the war. But they, too, know that if autonomy is to succeed the Spanish class must help. As a class the Spaniards of Guines are not doing it. They are fierce intransigentes, irreconcilable foes of colonial home rule. Their hostility is deeper and more intense than is shown by the Spanish element in Havana because it runs in a narrower channel. Their opposition is not vociferous. It is silent, sullen and determined. Having had an opportunity to observe this Spanish feeling, I can understand why the group of Cubans with whom I talked, all of them men of standing, discussed autonomy as though it were a hopeless dream. Their sadness was depressing. They spoke of the future as a blank. Said one of them: "If your country thinks it has the right to intervene why does it wait till all is gone from us? Why does it not say to Spain, to the insurgents in the field, to the junta in New York, "this waste of life and of Cuba's resources shall stop."

Not Returned to the Farms.

The matter of the reconcentradoes be comes tedious, but it cannot be ignored in striving to reach the exact situation as to the material upbuilding of the island. I do not intend to describe further wretchedness or disease or suffering. It is only with reference to the part of the military authorities in carrying out the plans of the government that a word is necessary about this unfortunate class. Part of the program of autonomy was to relieve the reconcentradoes by extending the zones of cultivation. General Blanco's order revoking Weyler's concentration decree was specifically directed to this end. Alluring pictures were drawn of the country people. They would go back to the soil. Their "bahios" or palm huts would again cover the land. They would be supplied with the means of planting seed in the fruitful earth which in sixty days would yield them sustenance. The picture remains in the imagination. The reality does not exist. In a fairly thorough quest over the stretch of country between Havana and Guines, I have not been able to find the people restored to the spots which were once their homes. The new bahios, so easily put together, have not sprung up like gourds. Where the poles were left standing like bird cages, the cages remain unthatched. Where the ruins were, ruins remain.

It may be said that the practical extermination of the country people has left do not intend to describe further wretched-

ruins remain.

It may be said that the practical extermination of the country people has left no one to go back to the farms and rebuild the huts. Of some localities this is substantially true. There are no concentradoes to go out from the camp at Jaruco, near Havana, because they are all dead. Of Guines, with its record of 7,000 deaths, almost the same thing might be said. But other towns, Madriga, San Nicolas, San Felipe, in spite of the heavy mortality they have suffered, could furnish concentradoes to go back to the country. The execution of this policy devolves on the military commanders.

ommanders. With a few honorable exceptions, they are not executing it. They distribute rations to the concentradoes, and that is the limit of their exertions. In some cases they interpose hindranees to the efforts of pri-vate individuals. Commonly they show what might be called a passive disobediwhat might be called a passive disobedience to the captain general's orders. They
carnot be disciplined because it is passive.
I have heard Spanish officers deplore the
haste with v hich Weyler's decree was carried out and the severity with which it was
enforced, yet they justify it as a military
measure. They hold that to weaken the insurgents and to keep their districts pacified
the country outside of certain limits must
be kept barren and the country people restrained close to the fortified towns. Their
attitude conflicts with the position of the
authorities, but the power of the captain
general does not seem strong enough to general does not seem strong enough to change it. CHARLES M. PEPPER.

## STREET NOMENCLATURE

Measure Proposed by Commissioners to Correct Defects in the System.

The Commissioners have transmitted to the chairmen of the two District commit tees in Congress the draft of a bill drawn by them for the purpose of securing uniformity in the nomenclature of the streets of the city of Washington and its suburbs. The first section of the bill, after referring to the great lack of such uniformity and the great desirability of having a better scheme, authorizes the Commissioners to perfect such a system. The second section provides that whenever repetitions appear in the names of the streets, avenues, alleys, courts, places or roads in the city new names shall be given to thoroughfares bearing such repeated names, and wherever the lines of any street or streets so nearly coincide in alignment as to form practically a continuous thor-oughfare, the whole shall bear one name only.

Section three provides that all mind streets, avenues, alleys, courts or places in the city and its suburbs bearing ob-jectionable names or names lacking in euphony shall be given new and appropriate appellations. established urban street or avenue is on a continuous line with any street or avenue of any suburban subdivision, the name of

such urban street or avenue shall also be given to the extended part of such thou In the fifth section it is provided tha

in any subdivision of property within the District hereafter authorized the names of the streets, avenues and alleys embraced therein shall be designated by the District Convenistationers. Commissioners.

Section six is to the effect that every Section six is to the effect that every country road in the District outside the city of Washington and its suburbs shall be given an appropriate name, and at every crossing or junction of said roads there shall be placed a guide board, bearing their names in large letters and its distance from the Capitol.

The last section of the bill, the seventh provides that in the system of nomencless.

The last section of the bill, the section provides that in the system of nomenclature herein provided for the names of distinguished Americans shall be preferred; provided, that the names of fiving persons shall not be used.

TAKEN AS A MENACE.

Presence of a Squadron in the Gulf Alarms Spanish. MADRID, December 18.-The Imparcial in an article on the United States Congress SAVE:

"After the insults and calumnies against Spain, our excellent almost protector and friend McKinley, as compensation, is going to send a squadron to the Gulf of Mexico, a measure never so unnecessary as now, since Cuba has a captain general whose policy is just and humane. Spain has just made great concessions to Cuba. This is because the Yankees are seeking to justify the policy of the insurgents, who base their hopes on the intervention of their friends.

BISMARCK GROWING WEAKER.

Ex-Chancellor Suffers Partial Collaps After the Emperord Visit.

LONDON, December 18.—A special dispatch from Hamburg says: "Prince Bismarck, who braced up for the emperor's visit, has relapsed into his former weak-ness, despondercy and persistent insomnia. Mentally and physically, Prince Bismarck is rapidly declining."

Senate.

THREE ILLINOIS MEN SELECTED

Representative Johnson After a Veto of the Sealing Bill.

THE DISTRICT OFFICES

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Treasury.

William P. Williams of Illinois, to be assistant treasurer of the United States at Chicago, Ill.; William Penn Nixon of Illinois, to be collector of customs for the district of Chicago, Ill.; Archibald A. Young of Indiana, to be surveyor of customs for the port of Indianapolis, Ind. Henry C. Grenner of Missouri, to be collector of internal revenue for the first district of Missouri; John H. Walkenhorst of Missouri, to be appraiser of merchandise at the port of Saint Louis, Mo.; John L. Hodges of Colorado, to be assayer in charge of the mint of the United States at Denver; Joseph Spear, jr., of California, to be surveyor of customs in the district of San Francisco, Cal.

John C. Ames of Illinois, to be marshal of the United States for the northern district of Illinofs; Frank W. Parker of New Mexico and John R. McFie of New Mexico, to be associate justices of the supreme court of the territory of New Mexico; James L. Martin of Vermont, to be attorney of the United States for the district of Vermont; Isaac W. Dyer of Maine, to be attorney of the United States for the district of Maine.

State.

George L. Darte of Pennsylvania, consul at Martinique, West Indies. Postmaster-Lorenzo F. Watson at Wat-

Mr. William P. Williams had the support of Secretary Gage in his candidacy and also of all the bankers of Chicago. He is secretary of the Union League Club, and was an original supporter of Major Mc-Kinley. Wm. Penn Nixon has been identified with

the Chicago Inter-Ocean as editor and part owner for many years, running back be-yond 1880, when he was a supporter of General Grant for the third term nomination. There were no opposing candidates for the office, Senator Culiom having asked for the appointment for Mr. Nixon soon after the election of President Mckinley.

A Busy Day for the President. In getting ready the batch of nominations which went to the Senate today and in receiving and talking with a large number of efficial callers the President had a busy

Representative Johnson of North Dakota had an important talk with him. Mr. Johnson asked the President to veto the bill which passed a few days ago prohibiting penagic seating by citizens of the United States. In making this request Mr. John-son submitted the letters which passed between ex-Secretary Foster and Sir Wilfrig Laurier, indicating that the negotiations between the United States and Canada for the suppression of scaing have been a fail-ure. Mr. Johnson went on to say that the object of the passage of the bill was to dacilitate negotiations between Canada and this country. That object was now frustrated. Mr. Johnson made a strong presentation of the case. The President assured him that he would give the matter

The Kansas City Collectorship.

A large delegation of Missourians consulted with the President today about the internal revenue collectorship of the Kansas City district. This is the collectorship over which a hot fight has been waging. The delegation was composed of Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior; National Committeeman Kerens, ex-Representatives Wade and Tracey and J. L. Minnis. They were accompanied by F. E. Kellogg, the orship. Mr. Kerens and Mr. Davis are connomination. There would have been no question about this from the beginning but for the opposition of Major Warner, who has a candidate, and who talked with the President some time ago. Senator Mason was a caller. All of the Chicago nominations were agreed upon by Senators Mason and Cullom and there is no friction regarding any of them.

The Virginia factions are again trying to get some satisfaction about nominations. Representatives Walker and Yost saw the President today regarding the marshalship of the western district of the state. These wo representatives are supporting Col Henry Bowen for the marshalship, while Col. Brady, Judge Waddili and others are supporting Brown Allen, who is also said o have the support of Senator Hanna. The President has reached no decision. The district attorneyship of the same district has been ready to fill for three months, the term of Mr. Montague, the new attorney general of the state, having expired that long ago. He was temporarily reappointed but now gives up the position. Representative Northway of Ohio wants

to secure the appointment of William T. Fee to a consulship, and talked with the President about his desires. Mr. Fee will get a place. Ohio Men Call.

Senator Hanna was at the White House

teday with State Senator Dodge, republican, of Cuyahoga county. Mr. Dodge had some matters he wanted to talk over with the President. Mr. Dodge says that he is satisfied Senator Hanna will be easily reelected by the legislature. He does not believe the latest story from Cincinnati that three republican members from that city have come out against the senator. All three of the men named told him, he says, that they would vote for Mr. Hanna.

Secretary Sherman went to the White House with Colonel Parsons of Ohio. Colonel Parsons is a warm friend of the President. He wanted to see the President about the nomination of a friend. Ex-Representative Watern of Ohio was also a visual presentative three republican members from that city have come out against the senator. All about the nomination of a friend. Ex-Representative Watson of Ohio was also a visitor from the buckeye state. He has been talked of for some time as a candidate for some good place, but nobody has been able to ascertain whether he wants a place. Senators Lodge, Fairbanks, McMillan, Perkins and Allison and Representatives Cousins, C. W. Stone, Showalter, Grout, Maylov and Dingley were among the offi-Hawley and Dingley were among the offi-cial callers who saw the President on busi-

No Local Nominations Yet. The President will make no nominations o fill District offices until Congress reassembles. During the recess, when the pressure of official business is somewha removed by the absence of members of tunity to decide on the nominations to be made, and be ready to send them to the Senate when Congress again begins busi-

emperor's ness.
Gossip around the White House still puts insomnia.
Bismarck
Bismarck
Rismarck
Bismarck

THEY WILL BE EXEMPTED

Pesitions to Be Taken From the Classified

Action That Will Probably Be Taken by the President During the Holiday Recess of Congress.

In all probability before Congress gets through its holiday recess the President will take action in regard to the civil service rules, and by so doing forestall and prevent any more radical change by Congress. The President, it is asserted, contemplates such a step, and the first offices to be affected will be the deputy collectors of internal revenue. It is now clear that the President and his advisers have been considering for some time a modification of the famous blanket order, by which President Cleveland placed 43,000 offices in the classified list of the civil service.

Since Congress has been in session th fight against the civil service law has been so persistent and strong that many of the republican senators, knowing the President's inclination in this matter, have advised him to act immediately in the matter to prevent any serious modification of the law by Congress.

It is now stated that the President will before Congress meets again issue new rules
in regard to the civil service law, removing
from the classified list all bonded officials, such as deputy collectors of customs, deputy collectors of internal revenue, deputy marshals, assistant district
attorneys, assistant subtreasurers and, perhaps, executive chiefs of bureaus and departments.

It is well known that the members of the cabine: favor such a modification, and have urged that it be done. This will not affect the civil service in regard to clerks or other officials, for which the civil service law was originally intended. It will have an effect of allowing the cabinet officers and chiefs of the various departments to select their own assistants, and to carry out the poicey of the administration, and at the same time protecting clerks and other officers, and remove the latter from political influence. The change contemplated will affect several thousand officers, not only in Washington, but all over the country, and aiready hints as to the order have been given and preparations made as to the changes.

The attitude of the President on the civil service was described as follows by him in this recent pressure to Congress:

his recent n-essage to Congress:
"Much of course still remains to be accomplished before the system can be made reasonably perfect for our needs. There are places new in the classified service which ought to be exempted and others not classified may properly be included. I shall not hesitate to exempt cases which I think have been improperly included in the classi-fied service or include those which in my judgment will best promote the public serv-ice. The system has the approval of the people and it will be my endeavor to up-hold and extend it."

Framing a Bill.

The republican members of the House who are framing a bill to reform the civil service law have not yet got together to draft their measure. Chairman Hepburn of the special committee baving the matter in charge says he expects the bill to be matured soon after the holdlay recess closes. Thus far, however, he and his as-sociates on the special committee have not discussed the form that the form the fo ed the form that the reform meas ure is to take. Representative Tawney, who is chairmen of the committee to look up evidence on the maladministration of the present law, is naking an elaborate collection of the material calculated to show defects in the law and its enforcement. He will supplement this with a ment. He will supplement this with a careful review of the law in the case, the purpose being to show that the original aw never contemplated the wide application which it is given, and that the powers exercised by the civil service commission are supported only by usage and not by law. Mr. Tawney says the powers exercised by the commission have stood merely because they were not contested by any legal process which would secure a strict adherence to the law.

WILL OPPOSE CONFIRMATION.

Senator Teller Criticises Mr. C. P Bryan's Qualifications. In reply to a question, Senator Teller said today that he would oppose the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Charle Page Bryan to be minister to China. "I have," he said, "known Mr. Bryan for many years, as he was formerly a resident of Colorado, and my personal relations

with him have always been amicable. My opposition to his confirmation is based solely upon the ground that he has had no experience or training that would justify this government in selecting him for the most important mission we have at the present time. It cannot be doubted that ertain European countries intend, if they can possibly find an excuse for so doing to dismember China and divide up that great territory between them. 1 do not believe that such a high-handed outrage should be perpetrated, and if it is attempted I think that other self-respecting nations not engaged in the division of the spells should enter a very vigorous pro-test. This attempt at the dismemberment of China will in all likelihood give rise to a serious and complicated diplomatic con-troversy, in which this country will be invelved. It is hardly to be supposed that under the circumstances we would be un-cencerned spectators of such proceedings For this reason we should have in China one of the ablest and most experienced of public men. The mission to England, France cr Russia is at this time of less importance than is the Chinese mission My opposition to Mr. Bryan grows out of

Bryan will contend that he meets these requirements."
The opposition to Mr. Bryan, though very determined, appears to be confined to a few senators, and it is not believed that it will be successful. It is not based on will be successful. It is not based on grounds that can be supported by tangible charges, the only question raised being that of whether he is strong enough and possessing sufficient experience. The matter of experience is, of course, plain enough, but it is a difficult proposition to measure a man's ability. The impression seems to be that the objections to him are too vagus to defeat the appointment. The question of Mr. Bryan's ability and fitness for the precition was naturally considered by the President in making the selection, and the suggestion on the part of a few that a more experienced man might have been chose experienced man might have been chosen would certainly not ordinarily have much weight in the matter of confirmation when the President persists in the selection.

Mr. Bryan was at the White House for a
short time today.

GOING TO DAWSON.

Newspaper Syndicate to Send an Expedition to Dawson. Secretary Alger received a telegram from

Mr. Edgar B. Piper, at Seattle, Wash., this morning, saying: "The Post-Intelligencer and its Alaska news syndicate have made all preparations

to send an expedition to Dawson City, leav-Corona for Skaguay. It is fully equipped with oxen and dogs, and will reach Dawson by February 15. It is the ploneer midwinter expedition, and its services are offered to you for reconnoitering or such other purposes as you may be able to suggest." ng Seattle next Tuesday on the steamer

## CAUGHT IN THE ACT

read any other paper.

If you want to buy, sell

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lease property or rent rooms, want a situation or

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to announce the fact in the advertising columns of The Star. They are closely

studied by more than three times as many people as

Mrs. Annie Henault Under Arrest for Shoplifting.

GIVES NO REASON FOR HER CONDUCT

Search of Her House Discloses Stolen Goods Worth \$100.

THE ARTICLES IDENTIFIED

Mrs. Annie Henault was detected yesterday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, in the act of shoplifting in the Besten House. She was seen to take some articles by Mr. Trainor, one of the floor walkers, and he letained her until the arrival of Detective Muller. The woman admitted her guilt, and said she could give no reason for her conduct.

Upon searching her at the first precinct police station, Miss Pennifill, the matron, found about \$20 worth of stolen property concealed under Mrs. Henault's clothing. Later her house, at No. 923 M street southwest, was searched, and nearly \$100 worth of goods were found. The prisoner is the wife of Robert E. He-nault, a clerk in Edmonston's shoe store, on

nault, a clerk in Edmonston's shoe store, on F street, and his wife's arrest was a severe shock to him. He went with the officers last night when they searched his house, and rendered them all the assistance he could. The finding of the valuable articles, secreted in bureau drawers and other places in the house, was a complete sur-nrise to him. prise to him.

Mrs. Henault was never arrested before, so far as the police know, and although she appears to be a novice in the shoplifting business, she was supplied with one of the

false pockets such as professional shop-lifters use when they visit stores to make big hauis. In this pocket the police matron found five silver knives, a number of handker-chiefs and ties, and some stockings. This pocket or bag was worn under the skirt, and fastened about the waist. It is large enough to hold a bolt of silk, besides other articles, yet even when well filled it would not attract special attention.

Mrs. Henault was detained in the office of the Boston House until the detective reached there and took charge of her. On her way to the police station she tried to rid herself of some of the plunder, but did

Tearful Regrets.

"I don't know what made me do this," sobbed the little woman. "I didn't have to

do it." Detective Muller waited at the station until the woman was searched. While her appearance almost convinced him that she was not a professional, the finding of the tell-tale pocket made it appear that she had been in the business before. He thereupon determined he would search her house, but it was nearly midnight before

he reached there with Detective Baur and the woman's husband. The first drawer opened revealed a num-ber of ostrich feathers and feathers of cheaper variety. There was also a quan-tity of other articles intended for hat trimmings, several pieces of lace, a roll of silk ribbon, silver mounted comb and brush, silver mounted c'othes brush, handkerchiefs, oureau scarfs, scissors, doylies, stockings, a pair of fancy garters, shaving brush, pipe and other articles. The goods were all taken to police headquarters, where some of them were identified as the property of the Boston House and others as the prop-erty of the Palais Royal. The ostrich eathers were identified as having been

aken from Kann's. ARMY AND NAVY.

Transfers, Leaves, Orders and Per-

sonal Notes. The following transfers are made in tha 8th Cavalry; First Lieut. De Rasey C. Cabell, from Troop G to Troop A; First Lieut. George McK. Williamson, from Troop A to

The leave of absence granted Capt. Walter S. Scott is extended one month. Lieut. George H. Peters is here on a leave of absence. He is at 1354 Columbia

Troop G.

avenue. Assistant Naval Constructor W. Pierce Robert is in the city on his way to the Norfolk navy yard, where he has been orlered for duty.

Assistant Constructor J. Gaines Roberts egistered at the Navy Department today. He is at the Ebbitt on leave. The gunboat Helena left Brooklyn yes-terday for Bermudas on her way to China. The cruiser Boston arrived at Chemulpo today. The gunboat Marietta is a San Francisco. First Lieut. C. A. F. Flagler of the En-

gineer Corps is in the city on leave of ab-sence. He is visiting his parents at 2144 California avenue. ON THE ASIATIC STATION.

Our Naval Strength There to Be Increased.

In order to strengthen the United States naval forces on the Asiatic station, which bids fair to be the scene of important events in the near future, the Secretary of the Navy has detached the cruiser Raleigh from the European and ordered that she proceed at once to the Asiatic station. The Raleigh is now at Smyrna, and it will take her about seven weeks to make the distance of 7,000 miles to China. The vessels now on that station are the flagship Olympia, the cruisers Boston and Monocacy and the small gunboat Petrel. The gunboat Helena has started from New York for China, but she will make a leisurely cruise, and will hardly reach there for nine or ten months. The gunboats Concord and Mari-etta are fitting out at San Francisco for service on the Chinese station, but they will not start for several weeks.

will not start for several weeks.

Secretary Long says the reinforcement of the Chinese fieet has no significance beyond a desire to maintain a respectable show of force in that section of the globe, in accordance with the policy adopted at the time of the Chinese-Japanese war. Trouble is apt to arise in the orient at any time, and it is well to be fully prepared to protect the lives and property of citizens of the United States. Secretary Long says, however, that the orders to the Raleigh have no relation whatever to the German policy no relation whatever to the German policy in China.

PRESIDENT OF UNION PACIFIC.

Rumor That C. S. Mellen of the N. P. Will Be Chosen.

CHICAGO, December 18.-The Tribune says today: The opinion is gaining ground in railway and financial circles that neither Edwin W. Winter nor Horace G. Burt will be the president of the Union Pacific. The man now most prominently mentioned for the position is C. S. Mellen, president of the Northern Pacific.

Northern Pacific.
Rumors have lately been current that
Daniel Lamont would soon succeed Mr.
Mellen as president of the Northern Pacific,
and thus strength is given to those reports
that Mr. Mellen had practically been
agreed upon as the most suitable man for
the presidency of the Union Pacific.